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Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System

GOVERMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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State Fire Marshal's Office
Post Office Box 1025
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

The Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System:

Questions and Answers

1. What is the burn injury reporting law in Massachusetts?

Chapter 112, Section 12A of the Massachusetts General Laws provides for the mandatory reporting of the treatment of burn injuries.

2. What kinds of burns must be reported?

Any burn injury of 5% or more of the surface body area must be reported immediately by attending physician and/or emergency room personnel.

3. How are burns reported?

By calling the state's toll-free, 24-hour Burn Hotline at 1-800-475-3443 and completing a written burn injury report and mailing it immediately to: M-BIRS, Office of the State Fire Marshal, P. O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775.

or by

Completing the written report and faxing it to the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (508) 567-3199.

and by

Notifying the police chief/department of the city or town where the burn occurred.

4. Who is legally responsible for reporting burns?

"Every physician attending or treating a burn injury, or whenever any such case is treated in a hospital, sanitarium or other institution, the manager, superintendent or other person in charge thereof."

5. When did the burn injury reporting system go into effect?

On June 1, 1984, a joint memo was issued to all Massachusetts hospitals, police chiefs, and fire chiefs from the state Commissioners of Public Safety and Public Health advising that, as of that date, the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting Law would be in effect. It remains a cooperative effort between the Department of Public Health and the Department of Fire Services.

6. What is the purpose of the burn injury reporting law?

Primarily enacted as an aid in detecting arsonists who may burn themselves accidentally during the course of their crime, the *M-BIRS* program has proven useful in developing a sound burn data base from which effective burn prevention and education programs may be and have been developed.

7. What about burns which occur out of state but which are treated here in Massachusetts?

All burns treated in Massachusetts must be reported.

Victim's Name _____
Last *First* *M.*

Victim's Home Address _____

Victim's Age _____ Gender _____ Local Police Department Notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of Burn _____ Was the Victim at Work When Burned? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address Where Burn Occurred _____

Part of Body Injured or %BSA: _____

Cause of Burn (e.g. spilled coffee, tap water, clothing ignited while cooking): _____

_____

Type of Burn: *(check one)*

☐ Flame ☐ Scald ☐ Chemical
☐ Fire ☐ Electrical ☐ Sunburn
☐ Explosion ☐ Contact ☐ Other

Severity: *(check one)*

☐ Minor ☐ Life-threatening
☐ Moderate ☐ Dead
☐ Severe

If you have any questions about the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System,
call the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380 or leave a message at 1-800-475-3443.

FP-84F

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Fire Services
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Post Office Box 1025
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

TO: Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System

FROM: _____

Name of Hospital and Attending Physician

RE: Burn Injury Extending to 5% or More of Body Surface Area

To fax burn injury reports, dial (978) 567-3199.

When you fax the burn report, you satisfy both the telephone and written reporting notification requirements for the State Fire Marshal. You still need to notify the police chief in the community where the burn occurred.

-OR-

Call 1-800-475-3443 anytime to report burns over the phone AND mail this sheet to the above address.

8. Does this include burns treated by a private physician in a private setting?

Yes. All burns of 5% or more of the surface body area must be reported.

9. What about patient transfers?

The physician and/or hospital, clinic etc. providing treatment of a burn must make the required notifications immediately.

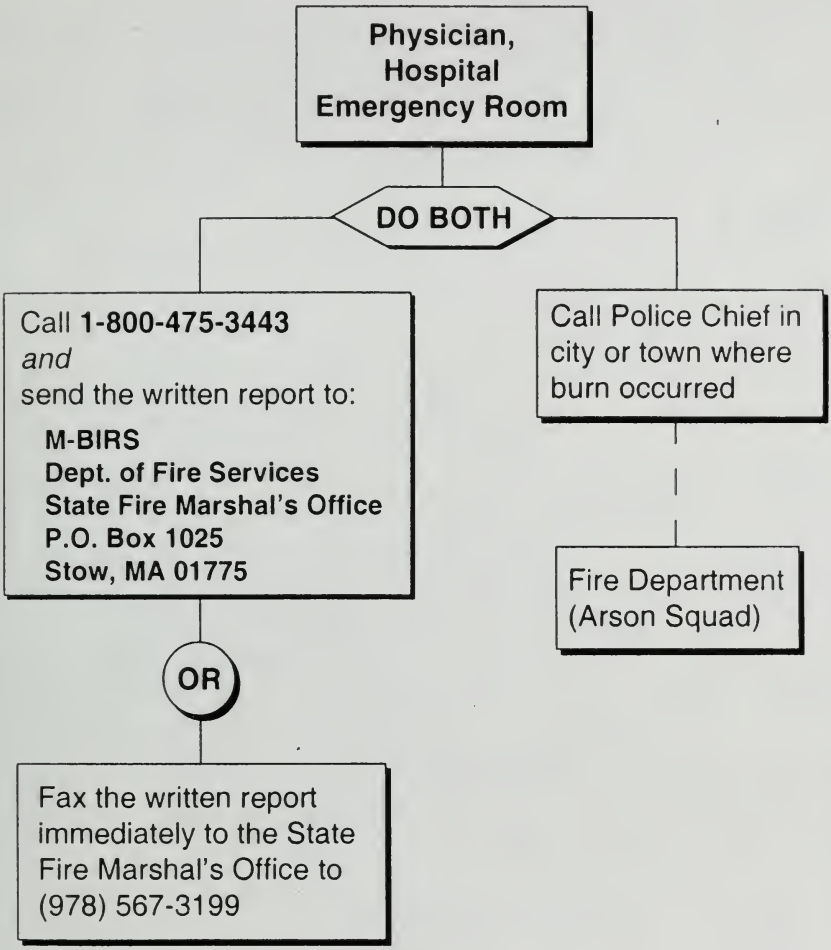
10. Is there a penalty for non-compliance?

Yes. Massachusetts law provides for punishment by a fine of up to one hundred dollars for violation of the burn injury reporting law. (C. 112, § 12A, MGL)

11. Where do we obtain more burn injury reporting forms?

By writing or calling the State Fire Marshal's Office at P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775, (978) 567-3382. You may also leave a request on the 24-hour Burn Hotline at 1-800-475-3443.

The Burn Reporting Process



How To Report Burns...

Immediately!

1. **Call the Massachusetts 24-Hour, Toll-Free Burn Hotline**

1-800-475-3443

2. **Give the following information:**

   A. Name of Hospital and Attending Physician
   B. Victim's Name and Address
   C. Age of Victim
   D. Gender
   E. Local Police Notified?
   F. Date of Injury
   G. Work Related?
   H. Address Where Burn Occurred
   I. Part of Body Injured or % BSA
   J. Cause of Burn
   K. Type of Burn *(flame, scald, chemical, fire, electrical, sunburn, explosion, contact)*
   L. Severity *(minor, moderate, severe, life-threatening, dead)*

3. **Notify the police chief/department of the city or town *where* the burn occurred.**

4. **Complete the burn injury reporting form (Form FP-84, supplied by the State Fire Marshal's Office) and forward immediately to:**

   M-BIRS
   Office of the State Fire Marshal
   P.O. Box 1025
   Stow, MA 01775

5. **You may combine the immediate telephone notification and the written report by faxing the written report immediately to (978) 567-3199.**